

Annex D: King County Plan Adoption Documentation



King County

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November 12, 2009

The Honorable Dow Constantine
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Constantine:

I am pleased to transmit to you a proposed ordinance approving and adopting an updated Multi-Jurisdictional Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (RHMP) for King County. Adoption of this plan by the Metropolitan King County Council and approval by both State of Washington, Emergency Management Division (EMD), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is required to ensure access to future Federal mitigation project funding related to potential flooding or any other type hazard the region may experience over the next five year period.

A Mitigation Plan is a community-driven document used to identify projects or programs to reduce vulnerability to hazards. Mitigation planning is a process through which communities assess risks and identify prioritized actions or strategies to reduce vulnerability to hazards through hazard mitigation. The Plan and its process show the link between hazard identification, vulnerability and risk assessment and provide a vehicle to expand on and improve existing mitigation tools. Communities must have an approved Plan to apply for or receive federal mitigation grants. These grants augment local mitigation activities, reduce vulnerability, and allow communities to recover more quickly from disasters.

King County and its residents receive many benefits from the RHMP planning process:

- increases public awareness and understanding of vulnerabilities and specific actions to reduce losses from future natural or man-made disasters;

- builds partnerships with diverse stakeholders, increasing opportunities to leverage data and resources; and
- informs development, prioritization and implementation of mitigation projects

In addition, mitigation planning creates safer communities, reduces life and property damage, allows individuals to minimize post-disaster disruptions and recover more rapidly, and lessens the financial impact on individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

The King County Council adopted the County's initial RHMP in October 2004 (Ordinance 15038); an update of that plan is now required. The current plan expired November 1, 2009. Until King County has an adopted plan to update the 2004 plan, it cannot compete for funds through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program, a nationally competitive program, or the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. King County and its residents continue to have access to Public Assistance or Individual Assistance following a declared disaster, as this funding is not contingent upon the required plan update.

State review is complete and the county's plan was forwarded as approved by Washington State to FEMA earlier this week for federal review. Upon adoption by the King County Council and Executive signature, FEMA has indicated a willingness to provide prompt review and consideration for final approval.

This transmittal package includes an adopting ordinance that will allow the county's Office of Emergency Management to incorporate any final FEMA changes required to gain Federal approval of the updated mitigation plan. It is common practice for a jurisdiction's legislative actions to occur in advance of final FEMA approval. FEMA expects such adjustments to the plan subsequent to Council approval.

Highlights of the updated 2009 RHMP include:

- flooding hazard risk increased to high, given the Howard Hanson Dam and potential increased risk for Green River Valley flooding for the next possible 5 years (Section 5);
- a risk assessment of the six major King County river basins (Section 6); and
- use of easy to read tables and charts to highlight 2009 RHMP updates in each Section and Annex.

If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Whalen, Program Project Director, Department of Executive Services at 263-9755.

Sincerely,

Kurt Triplett
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Tom Bristow, Interim Chief of Staff
 Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
 Frank Abe, Communications Director
Pam Bissonnette, Assistant County Executive, Executive Office (EO)
Noel Treat, Chief of Staff, EO
Paul Tanaka, King County Emergency Manager, EO
Beth Goldberg, Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget
Bob Cowan, Acting County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive Services (DES)
Caroline Whalen, Program Project Director, DES
Robin Friedman, Director, Office of Emergency Management, DES

..Title

AN ORDINANCE approving and adopting the updated
Multi-Jurisdictional Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, as
approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

..Body

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Findings:

- A. King County supports disaster mitigation efforts and regional disaster planning.
- B. A locally adopted plan reviewed and approved by Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") is required under the Mitigation Act of 2000, 44 C.F.R. 201.
- C. Regular revisions and updates to the updated five year plan are required by FEMA.
- D. In October 2004, the King County council approved the county's initial five year Multi-Jurisdictional Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- E. An updated plan is now required to comply with the Mitigation Act of 2000.
- F. King County and other jurisdictions within King County have a cooperative interest in disaster mitigation planning efforts.
- G. Additional agencies are expected to annex to this plan following FEMA approval.

H. FEMA approval of this plan enables the county to seek Federal mitigation project funding related to potential flooding or other hazards the region may experience over the next five year planning period.

I. Certification of the King County council's approval of this plan is required for FEMA final approval.

SECTION 2. The King County council hereby approves and adopts the Multi-Jurisdictional Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Attachment A to this ordinance.

SECTION 3. The King County council authorizes the office of emergency management to make any required FEMA revisions to updated Multi-Jurisdictional Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan required by FEMA final approval.

Attachment A. King County Multi-Jurisdictional Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, November 2009.